

Application No.: 10/524,616
Amendment Dated: June 18, 2007
Reply to Office Action of: April 18, 2007

MAT-8653US

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Remarks/Argument:

Applicants' disclosure is directed to a plasma display panel. A non-evaporating getter is disposed inside the plasma display panel near the exhaust hole to absorb impurity gases that remain in the exhaust pipe after evacuating the display panel.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Carretti et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0008469). Claims 2 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Carretti and Wallace et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,614,785). It is respectfully submitted, however, that the claims are patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

Carretti discloses a nonevaporable getter system for a plasma flat panel display. The getter is disposed in the display along an edge of the display region without extending beyond the edge of the display region.

Applicants' invention, as recited by claim 1, includes a feature which is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely:

...a non-evaporating getter disposed inside the chamber such that a portion of the non-evaporating getter is disposed in a section of the chamber that is between an edge of the display region and the exhaust hole (emphasis added).

This feature is found in the originally filed application at Fig. 1. No new matter has been added.

Carretti describes in its background section an exhaust hole "formed at a corner of one of the panels at a position corresponding to the edge area." See paragraph 6. Carretti does not disclose an exhaust hole as part of its invention. As shown in Fig. 3a, Carretti's plasma display includes getter 42 disposed in an edge area of the plasma display that runs along image forming area 38 of the display. If the hole described in

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Carretti's background section were combined with the plasma display shown in Fig. 3a, it would be located in "a corner" of one of the panels. It is clear from Fig. 3a that even if the plasma display of Fig. 3a were to include a hypothetical exhaust hole in a corner, the getter would not be disposed "such that a portion of the non-evaporating getter is disposed in a section of the chamber that is between an edge of the display region and the exhaust hole."

This is different because Applicants' plasma display panel has a getter 19 and a portion of getter 19 is disposed in a section of the chamber that is between an edge of display region 17 and exhaust hole 15. Carretti's getter, on the other hand, is disposed along an edge of the image display region but stops before extending into the section that is between an edge of the display region and the hypothetical exhaust hole. Accordingly, Carretti does not include all the features of Applicants' amended claim 1.

It is because Applicants include the feature of a non-evaporating getter disposed inside the chamber such that a portion of the non-evaporating getter is disposed in a section of the chamber that is between an edge of the display region and the exhaust hole, that the following advantages are achieved. Namely, impurity gases absorbed and remaining near the exhaust hole in a conventional configuration, during evacuation of the chamber and injection of discharge gas, are absorbed by the non-evaporating getter.

Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, claim 1 is patentable over the art of record.

Claim 3, while not identical to claim 1, includes features similar to claim 1. Accordingly, claim 3 is patentable over the art of record for at least the same reasons set forth above.

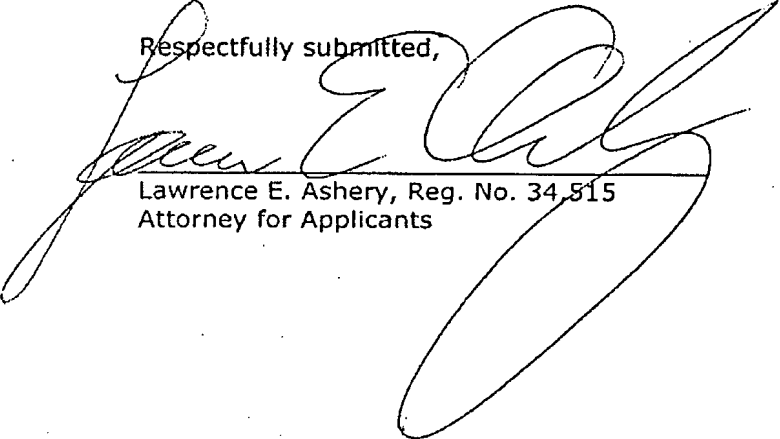
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Claim 2 includes all the features of claim 1 from which it depends. Thus, claim 2 is also patentable over the art of record for at least the reasons set forth above.

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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